

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 18-27 are pending. Claims 1, 4-6, 10, 12, 16 and 20 are currently amended. Claim 17 is canceled. Claims 22-27 are new. No new matter has been introduced.

The Examiner objected to an informality in claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to address the Examiner's concern.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-9, 16 and 18-21 under 35 USC Section 112, second paragraph as indefinite. The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed. Claims 1 and 16 have been amended in a manner that is believed to address the Examiner's concerns. It is noted that lines 6 and 7 of claim 1 recite: "changing configurations of said cross-connection circuit between cell transfer periods in cross-connection configuration periods." It is further noted that the receiving of line 18 of claim 1 occurs during the loopback configuration. The checking and shifting occur after or at the same time as the receiving, and may occur after an oscillation to a no-transmission configuration in some embodiments. In addition, the configuration periods include cell transfers. The Examiner indicated claims 1-9, 16, 18 and 19 would be allowable if the Examiner's indefiniteness rejections were addressed. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 1-9, 16, 18 and 19 are allowable. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact counsel of record in the event that the Examiner disagrees. With regard to claims 20 and 21, claim 20 has been amended to address the Examiner's antecedent basis concern.

The Examiner rejected claims 10-15, 20 and 21 under 35 USC Section 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 7,260,092 issued to Dally in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0033572 by Caldara and U.S. Patent No. 5,265,088 issued to Takigawa. The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed. Independent claim 10, as amended, recites, "the offset controller is configured to adjust the start of cell time based on detected corrupt cells received during the loopback configuration." Dally, alone or in combination with Caldara and Takigawa, does not teach, suggest, motivate or otherwise render obvious an offset controller "configured to adjust the start of cell time based on detected corrupt cells received during the loopback configuration," as recited. Claims 11-15 depend from claim 10 and are allowable at least by

virtue of their dependencies. Independent claim 20, as amended, recites, “the shifting is based on the detecting of corrupt cells received during the loopback configuration.” Dally, alone or in combination with Caldara and Takigawa, does not teach, suggest, motivate or otherwise render obvious shifting “based on the detection of corrupt cells received during the loopback configuration,” as recited. Claim 21 depends from claim 20 and is allowable at least by virtue of its dependency.

New claim 22 recites, “a cross connection matrix coupled to the cell input ports and the cell output ports of the plurality of port controllers, the cross connection matrix having a configuration controller configured to control an oscillation between a loopback configuration and a no transmission configuration, wherein a sending port controller of the plurality of port controllers comprises: a start of cell signal generator configured to generate a start of cell signals; an error detector configured to detect errors in cells received during the loopback configuration; and an offset controller configured to shift a start of cell time based on detected errors in the cells received during the loopback configuration.” Dally, alone or in combination with Caldara and Takigawa, does not teach, suggest, motivate or otherwise render obvious “an offset controller configured to shift a start of cell time based on detected errors in the cells received during the loopback configuration,” as recited. New claims 23-27 depend from claim 22 and are allowable at least by virtue of their dependencies.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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